

Safety Networking Agencies Present
September 13, 2011

Corporation for National & Community Service was formed to engage Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service to meet community needs. Each year, more than 1.5 million individuals of all ages and backgrounds help meet local needs through a wide array of service opportunities. These include projects in education, the environment, public safety, homeland security and other critical areas through the Corporation's two major programs: Senior Corps and AmeriCorps.

The Corporation is the nation's largest grantmaker supporting service and volunteering. Through our Senior Corps and AmeriCorps programs, we provide opportunities for Americans of all ages and backgrounds to express their patriotism while addressing critical community needs.

Service plays a vital role in supporting the American culture of citizenship, service and responsibility. We are a catalyst for change and champion for the ideal that every American has skills and talents to give.

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) preserves and promotes public confidence in the U.S. financial system by insuring deposits in banks and thrift institutions for at least \$250,000; by identifying, monitoring and addressing risks to the deposit insurance funds; and by limiting the effect on the economy and the financial system when a bank or thrift institution fails.

An independent agency of the federal government, the FDIC was created in 1933 in response to the thousands of bank failures that occurred in the 1920s and early 1930s. With an insurance fund totaling more than \$17.3 billion, the FDIC insures more than \$4 trillion of deposits in U.S. banks and thrifts - deposits in virtually every bank and thrift in the country.

It directly examines and supervises about 5,160 banks and savings banks for operational safety and soundness, more than half of the institutions in the banking system. The FDIC also examines banks for compliance with consumer protection laws.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (USDA - FNS) is the Federal agency responsible for managing the domestic nutrition assistance programs and is the Nation's first line of defense against hunger. Through its 15 nutrition assistance programs, most notably, **SNAP** (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, and WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children), FNS provides children and needy families access to food and a more healthful lifestyle. Currently, FNS programs touch the lives of one in four Americans over the course of a year. For more information go to: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns>.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is the United States government's principal agency for protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves.

- **The Administration for Children and Families (ACF)**, the key "human services" arm of the DHHS. ACF provides program funding to states, tribal organizations, and community and faith based organizations, touching the daily lives of many vulnerable individuals, families, and communities. Through programs such as Head Start and Child Care, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Child Support, Child Welfare, and Assets for Independence, ACF programs promote the economic and social well-being of Americans in need by strengthening families,

supporting healthy and comprehensive children development, and empowering families and communities to increase their economic and social self-sufficiency. Actual services are provided by state, county, city and tribal governments, and public and private local agencies. ACF assists these organizations through funding, policy direction, technical assistance, and information services.

- **The Administration on Aging (AoA)** is the Federal agency responsible for advancing the concerns and interests of older people and their caregivers. AoA works with and through the Aging Services Network to promote the development of a comprehensive and coordinated system of home and community-based long-term care that is responsive to the needs and preferences of older people and their family caregivers. AoA awards funds for nutrition and supportive home and community-based services to the 56 State Units on Aging (SUAs), 629 Area Agencies on Aging, 30,000 service providers and 500,000 volunteers. In addition, funds are awarded for disease prevention/health promotion services, elder rights programs (long-term care ombudsman program, legal services, and elder abuse prevention efforts), the National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP) and the Native American Caregiver Support Program (NACSP). For more information go to: www.aoa.gov To find local agencies in every U.S. community that can help older persons and their families, access home and community-based services you can go to www.eldercare.gov or call 800-677-1116.
- **The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)** is the Federal agency that administers Medicare and provides funding and guidance to the States for administering their Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance (CHIP) Programs. With total outlays of \$689 billion in FY 2009, CMS served over 101 million Medicare, Medicaid, and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) beneficiaries. Medicare is health insurance for people age 65 or older, under age 65 with certain disabilities, and any age with End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) (permanent kidney failure requiring dialysis or a kidney transplant). Medicaid is a Federal/State entitlement program that pays for medical assistance for certain individuals and families with low incomes and resources. Each state sets its own guidelines regarding eligibility and services. Meeting the needs of this population is the primary responsibility of the 10 CMS Regional Offices (ROs) and the field presence of approximately 1,400 federal employees dedicated to working with states and other partners to administer CMS programs and address issues at the grassroots level.
- **The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)** is the principal Federal agency charged with increasing access to health care for those who are medically underserved. HRSA provides funding to state, territory, local, and tribal organizations to increase access to care, improve quality, and safeguard the health and well-being of the Nation's most vulnerable populations. *Examples of HRSA programs/activities include:* support to nearly 3,600 health center sites serving about 12.5 million people; fund care and treatment services for an estimated 533,000 people living with HIV/AIDS; assist States and communities, including rural and border areas, and health care organizations in improving services to women and children; work with academic health centers and other training programs to enhance the diversity and distribution of the Nation's health care workforce; and implement comprehensive systems of services in communities to meet the many needs of children and youth with special health care needs and their families.

U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) fosters and promotes the welfare of the job seekers, wage earners, and retirees of the United States by improving their working conditions, advancing their opportunities for profitable employment, protecting their retirement and health care benefits, helping employers find

workers, strengthening free collective bargaining, and tracking changes in employment, prices, and other national economic measurements.

- **The Employment and Training Administration (ETA)** administers federal government job training and worker dislocation programs, federal grants to states for public employment service programs, and unemployment insurance benefits. These services are primarily provided through state and local workforce development systems.
- **The Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA)** protects the Integrity of pensions, health plans, and other employee benefits for more than 150 million people. Our Agency mission is to:
 - Deter and correct violations of the relevant statutes through strong administrative, civil and criminal enforcement efforts to ensure workers receive promised benefits
 - Develop policies and regulations that encourage the growth of employment-based benefits
 - Assist workers in getting the information they need to exercise their benefit rights
 - Assist plan officials to understand the requirements of the relevant statutes in order to meet their legal responsibilities

U.S. Department of Treasury

- **The Internal Revenue Service (IRS)** is one of the world's most efficient tax administrators. In 2004, the IRS collected more than \$2 trillion in revenue and processed more than 224 million tax returns. It provides America's taxpayers top quality service by helping them understand and meet their tax responsibilities and by applying the tax law with integrity and fairness to all. Its mission statement describes its role and the public's expectation about how they it should perform that role. In the United States, the Congress passes tax laws and requires taxpayers to comply. The taxpayer's role is to understand and meet his or her tax obligations. The IRS role is to help the large majority of compliant taxpayers with the tax law, while ensuring that the minority who are unwilling to comply pay their fair share.

- **The IRS-SPEC (SPEC) Division** is the outreach and education function of Internal Revenue Service's Wage and Investment Division. Its approach is to combine resources and goals with other organizations for better access to the elderly, persons with disabilities, persons who do not speak English as their first language, and the lower income populations in local communities. Groups that share the same customer base can join SPEC in community coalitions that aim toward putting more dollars into taxpayers' pockets. SPEC's mission shares the strategies of many community organizations in that it strives to assist taxpayers in satisfying their tax responsibilities *by building and maintaining partnerships with key stakeholders, seeking to create and share value by informing, educating, and communicating with our shared customers*. Over 3 million taxpayers received free tax preparation and other services through IRS-SPEC partners in 2011, including several hundred locations across New England. For more information go to: www.irs.gov or call 1-800-829-1040.

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) was created in 1953 as an independent agency of the federal government to aid, counsel, assist and protect the interests of small business concerns, to preserve free competitive enterprise and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of our nation. We recognize that small business is critical to our economic recovery and strength, to building America's future, and to helping the United States compete in today's global marketplace. Although SBA has grown and evolved in the years since it was established in 1953, the bottom line mission remains the same. The SBA helps Americans start, build and grow businesses. Through an extensive network of field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations, SBA delivers its services to people throughout the United States,

Puerto Rico, the U. S. Virgin Islands and Guam.

U.S. Social Security Administration (SSA) is an independent agency of the Federal government that administers Social Security, which consists of retirement, disability, and survivors' benefits. To qualify for these benefits, most American workers pay Social Security taxes on their earnings. Social Security taxes pay for three kinds of benefits: retirement, disability and survivors. If you are eligible for retirement or disability benefits, other members of your family might receive benefits, too.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) makes monthly payments to people who have low incomes and few resources. To get SSI, you also must be 65 or older, blind or disabled. Children as well as adults may qualify for SSI disability payments. The Federal government pays a basic benefit and some states add money to that amount. Generally, people who get SSI also can get Medicaid, food stamps and other assistance. You do not have to have worked to get SSI payments. SSI payments are financed through general tax revenues, not through Social Security taxes.

Massachusetts State Agencies:

Medicaid – The MassHealth program provides comprehensive health insurance - or help in paying for private health insurance - to more than one million Massachusetts children, families, seniors, and people with disabilities. The MassHealth mission is to help the financially needy obtain high-quality healthcare that is affordable, promotes independence, and provides customer satisfaction.

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs - Prescription Advantage is the state prescription drug assistance program for seniors and people with disabilities in Massachusetts. Prescription Advantage is available to residents of Massachusetts who are not MassHealth or CommonHealth members and who are age 65 and older or under age 65 and meet disability guidelines.

For members who are enrolled in Medicare, Prescription Advantage supplements the Medicare prescription drug benefit (Part D) by helping to pay for medication covered by an individual's Medicare drug plan. There are no monthly or annual fees for Prescription Advantage members with incomes below 300% of the Federal Poverty Level.

For members not eligible for Medicare, Prescription Advantage provides primary prescription drug coverage. There is no monthly premium for this coverage and members pay a quarterly deductible and co-payments until an annual out-of-pocket spending limit is reached. At that time, *Prescription Advantage* will pay the full cost of the member's covered prescription drugs through the end of the Plan year.